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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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**CONFIDENTIAL****REPORT**

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**COUNTRY** Poland**DATE DISTR.** 24 June 1955**SUBJECT** Armored and Mechanized Forces Officer Candidate  
Schools in Poznan**NO. OF PAGES** 16**DATE OF INFORM****REFERENCES:**

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Assignment to the OCS

1. [redacted] the Med Tk Bn, 39th Mecz 25X1  
Inf Regt stationed at Trezebiatow nad Rega (Treptow an der Rega N 54-04, 25X1  
E 15-16), the battalion adjutant ordered all NCOs who had completed a  
minimum of seven years schooling and possibly an NCO school to step out  
of the ranks of a battalion formation. In compliance [redacted] approx- 25X1  
imately 50 NCOs reported to the adjutant who then made [redacted] the 25X1  
[redacted] NCOs complete personal background and military history questionnaires.
2. During December 1951 [redacted] NCOs were interviewed 25X1  
by the battalion adjutant and political officers concerning their possible  
assignment to an unidentified intelligence school (Szkola Informacyjna)  
at an undisclosed location. [redacted] NCOs declined the pro- 25X1  
posed school assignment and returned to their assigned duties.
3. During January 1952, in compliance with verbal instructions [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] 18 other NCOs from the Med Tk Bn reported to the battalion adjutant. 25X1

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The latter instructed them to turn in to the battalion supply section all of their uniforms, clothing, and individual equipment with the exception of one complete uniform for wear en route.

4. Unaware of their destination and purpose, [ ] about 11 other NCOs entrained at Trzebiatow nad Rega and arrived at Poznan on or about 18 January 1952. Upon their arrival, they were informed that they were to attend the Armored and Mechanized Forces OCS located there. 25X1
5. At the time of their departure for Poznan [ ] about six additional NCOs were sent to Gizycko (N 54-02, E 21-46) for the purpose of attending the Armored Technical OCS located there.<sup>2</sup> of the original 50 NCOs that stepped out of ranks [ ] only 18 NCOs [ ] were selected for OCS training. 25X1

6. [ ] all of the 18 NCOs had completed a minimum of seven years of school and had also completed an NCO school. 25X1

#### Examinations of OCS Candidates

7. [ ] about 200 NCOs from various Polish Army units reported for OCS training at Poznan in January 1952. They were formed into two companies of four platoons each. [ ] candidates were physically examined by about eight medical officers from an unidentified hospital in Poznan. [ ] OCS candidates [ ] given an eye test and an Ishihara color blindness test, a test of hearing and reflexes, a measurement of height and weight and a chest examination with a fluoroscope. Blood samples were taken. [ ] they were used for a blood test and a blood count. [ ] four candidates were rejected for physical reasons [ ]

8. [ ] all [ ] OCS candidates were given a written test on academic subjects such as mathematics, physics, and chemistry. The results of these examinations were not made known to the candidates. 25X1

9. In addition [ ] candidates were individually interviewed by an OCS examination board consisting of a Soviet Col Aleksandrov Dimitrov, Soviet Lt Col Shiskin or Shishkov (fnu) the OCS Commandant, an unidentified Soviet lieutenant colonel and three Polish Army captains, names unknown.<sup>3</sup> All were members of the OCS staff. The Soviet officers dominated the entire interview, asking [ ] questions in Russian which were translated by the Polish Army captains. [ ]

#### Strength and Composition of Candidate Group

10. [ ] two battalions of candidates attending the Armored and Mechanized Forces OCS at Poznan. [ ] the maximum strength of the entire OCS at about 900 candidates. 25X1
11. [ ] an unknown number of cadre personnel were utilized to train the candidates. One cadreman, a lieutenant, was assigned to 25X1

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each platoon as an advisor and to assist the candidates when necessary. Candidates were assigned to all positions of authority within the platoons, companies and battalions.

12. [ ] about 400 candidates were in the first battalion which consisted of three companies with four platoons per company. The average strength of each platoon was estimated at about 30 candidates or more. The second battalion, with an estimated strength of about 500 candidates, consisted of five companies. Each company averaged about 100 candidates and was composed of four platoons. 25X1
13. The first company of the first battalion was composed of civilians who had entered OCS training directly from civilian life without any military training; they were taking a two-year course. The second and third companies of the first battalion consisted of NCOs who had completed an NCO school and had had considerable training in the Polish Army. These two companies were undergoing an eight-month course. All three companies of the first battalion completed their OCS training during August 1952 and September 1952.
14. The second battalion was composed entirely of civilians who had entered OCS training directly from civilian life and were taking a two-year course. Personnel of this battalion were scheduled to graduate during 1953. However, in or about September 1952, the candidates were told by their officers that in compliance with an order from the Ministry of National Defense, all OCS courses were extended to three years. [ ] 25X1  
[ ] under the new directive, one company of the second battalion was to complete the OCS course during 1953, and the remaining four companies were to complete the OCS course during 1954 and 1955. 25X1
15. [ ] the majority of the NCOs attending OCS [ ] were from the 1929 and 1930 year classes, while the candidates who came directly from civilian life into the OCS were from the 1932, 1933 and 1934 year classes. 25X1

#### Daily Routine

16. [ ] daily theoretical and practical instruction averaged about eight hours plus three hours for self-study if necessary. On Saturdays, daily instruction averaged about seven hours. On Sundays, supervised self-study periods and/or holiday hours were scheduled. 25X1
17. [ ] example of a daily schedule at the OCS: 25X1

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 0600        | Reveille   |
| 0600 - 0645 | Wash-up, police call and calisthenics                        |
| 0645 - 0850 | Lectures and/or practical training                           |
| 0850 - 0920 | Breakfast  |
| 0930 - 1450 | Lectures and/or practical instruction                        |
| 1500 - 1530 | Dinner   |
| 1530 - 1600 | Marksmanship, and occasionally chemical training             |
| 1600 - 1650 | Compulsory rest period and/or care and cleaning of equipment |

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1700 - 1950 Self-study period and/or political lectures  
 2000 - 2030 Supper  
 2030 - 2045 Barracks and quarters police  
 2045 - 2100 Company formation - publishing of orders  
 2100 Retreat

Morale and Morale Factors Among Candidates

18. [ ] student morale was very good. The candidates were 25X1  
 well disciplined, and, in general, they conducted themselves rather  
 well. About 15 per cent of the candidates received passes on Sundays  
 from 1400 to 2100 hours. The remainder of the candidates usually studied  
 and prepared themselves for the various courses that they were to take  
 during the ensuing week. Annual or normal leaves were not given to any  
 of the candidates; however [ ] occasionally a candidate 25X1  
 was given an emergency leave amounting to several days. Upon completion  
 of the course, all candidates received one month's leave before report-  
 ing to their new organizations.
19. [ ] a corporal attending OCS [ ] received about 17 25X1  
 zlotys per month. [ ] other can- 25X1  
 didates [ ] received about the same amount of pay 25X1  
 [ ] 25X1
20. All the candidates ate in one large, brick mess hall. About four com-  
 panies of candidates were accommodated at one sitting. The mess hall  
 contained tables which could accomodate six to eight candidates at each  
 sitting. Civilian females were employed as cooks and waitresses and  
 were supervised by one army mess sergeant and one mess officer. The  
 candidates were never detailed for any type of mess duty. The daily  
 basic menu consisted of the following:

Breakfast:

Soup (containing macaroni or rice)

Sausage

Butter

White bread

Ersatz coffee (made from wheat)

Dinner:

Soup (assorted vegetables)

Potatoes (boiled)

Meat, sausage or fish (fried or boiled)

White bread

Apple juice

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Supper:

Fish or meat (boiled or baked)

Potatoes

Butter or marmalade

Bread

Coffee or apple juice

21. [ ] the daily diet was considered to be a school diet and much better than the diet given to ordinary troops. A sufficient quantity of food was always served, and it was well-prepared and palatable. [ ] The candidates never had any rations served in the field during their training. [ ]
22. [ ] the OCS maintained a dispensary and pharmacy [ ] the dentist's office where [ ] two dental charts and various unidentified dental equipment. The dentist, a captain, had one civilian female dental assistant. Sick call was normally held during the evening, but emergency cases were accepted at any time. [ ] serious cases were usually sent to a military district hospital for medical treatment and care.
23. Occasionally, several candidates were punished for being absent without leave or for drunkenness. The normal punishment for such offenses was five days arrest; however, those arrested continued their daily studies with their respective platoons, returning to a status of confinement at the end of each day's daily routine.
24. During off-duty hours, candidates participated in all types of calisthenics, gymnastics or volley-ball games.
25. [ ] during the OCS course, only two candidates, a corporal and sergeant, were promoted to the next respective higher grade. Promotions were not expected by the candidates during OCS training. [ ] his battalion completed their OCS final examinations about 28 August 1952 and waited until about 7 September 1952 for their promotions to officer grade. The Ministry of National Defense in Warsaw, issued the officer promotion orders for all OCS candidates.
26. [ ] about 120 candidates were promoted to junior lieutenant. The remainder of the candidates were promoted to warrant officer grade. [ ] the grades of the candidates and the results of their examinations were not considered by the Ministry of National Defense. [ ] all the candidates who were promoted to junior lieutenant, were party members and had had a minimum of four years service as NCOs.
27. OCS candidates were not forbidden to attend church services; however, there were no churches within the vicinity of the OCS, and passes to attend church service were frowned upon by the OCS staff. The candidates circumvented possible difficulties by requesting passes without stating that they intended to use them to attend church service.

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OCS Quarters

28. The candidates were billeted in several two and three-story concrete buildings. About 350 candidates were normally billeted in one building. Double-decked metal bunks were used by the candidates. Latrines and washrooms were located on every floor. [redacted] 25X1  
billetts were quite roomy and well-ventilated and [redacted] living conditions were very good. 25X1

Reassignments

25X1

29. About September 1952, two Polish Army officers, ranks and names unknown, from the Ministry of National Defense interviewed [redacted] 25X1  
candidates [redacted] concerning their future assignments to armored units in Poland. [redacted] these officers offered the candidates assignments to any of several tank and armored units on a volunteer basis. [redacted] about 12 [redacted] candidates volunteered for the 41st Arm'd Arty Regt at Czarne (Hammerstein N 53-41, E 16-56). Upon receiving their promotion to warrant officer rank, all candidates were given a 30-day leave. Upon the expiration of such leave in October 1952 they reported to their units. 25X1
30. [redacted] during 1952, after having completed about 14 months of OCS training at Poznan, about 40 candidates were transferred to the Armored Technical OCS at Gzysko (N 54-02, E 21-46) which was recently activated. They were transferred for the purpose of taking technical training on tanks and SP guns. Upon completion of the course, they were to be assigned to armored units as technical officers. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] there were about 100 candidates there. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] during 1953, about 16 armored technical officers were assigned to the 41st Arm'd Arty Regt for duty as technical officers. 25X1

Instructing Staff

31. [redacted] given theoretical and practical instruction in various subjects by a minimum of 20 Polish Army officers whose ranks ranged from lieutenant to major. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] Several officers lectured on the various types of signal equipment and its method of operation. One unidentified medical officer conducted lectures on hygiene. Although Polish Army officers did not wear any identifying branch insignia at that time [redacted] all branches of the Polish Army were represented. The school commandant and the political and training officers frequently inspected the classrooms during lectures and often remained for short periods of time. 25X1

Texts Used

32. [redacted] at least one textbook was available to the platoon for every subject taught at the OCS. The platoon commander initially drew the texts from the OCS library and disseminated them to the members of his platoon. These texts were then passed from one candidate to another as needed. 25X1
33. All texts were classified as Very Secret (Scisle Tajne), or Secret (Tajne), or For Official Use Only (Do Uzytku Sluzbowego). Those texts that were classified For Military Use Only could be purchased by officers at the military store of the school or at any other military caserne.

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34. [redacted] all the texts were published by the Polish Ministry of National Defense. However, [redacted] some of these manuals [redacted] had obviously been translated from the Russian. In several of the manuals, particularly those on small arms, SMGs, and the recoil mechanism of the 122-mm gun, portions of the text remained in Russian, and Russian captions remained on illustrations. [redacted] weapons and tank part illustrations with captions in the Russian language. [redacted]  
[redacted] 25X1  
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35. [redacted] texts in use at the OCS, [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] 25X1

a. Terrain Analysis Manual (Podrecznik Terenoznawstwa)

Bound with red colored, hard paper covers. The number of pages was unknown but estimated to be three centimeters thick. It was classified "For Official Use Only" and contained instructions on map reading, orientation with map and ground formations, use of the compass, and recognition of map and land features.

b. Tank Manual (Podrecznik Czołgisty)

Bound with light red, hard paper covers, and estimated to have about 400 pages. It was classified "For Official Use Only" and contained instructions on tank tactics such as deployment of tanks in defense, attack, and in column movements; methods of firing tank weapons (85-mm and 122-mm guns); and descriptions of types of ammunition with definitions of markings on the ammunition. One section of the manual explained various tank obstacles and methods of crossing bridges and streams and of travelling in open and wooded areas. Other sections of the manual taught the decontamination of tanks after chemical spray attacks and methods of operating the signal equipment installed in tanks.

c. Tank Platoon Manual (Podrecznik Pluton Czołgow)

Written by a Soviet Army Lt Col Shevchenko (fnu) and usually referred to by the author's name. It was bound with gray colored, hard paper covers. The number of pages was unknown to source. It was classified "For Official Use Only" and contained instructions on tank tactics such as deployment of tanks in defense and attack and utilization of tanks in villages, cities, and wooded areas.

d. Heavy Tank Manual (Podrecznik Czołga Cieżkiego)

Bound with red colored, hard paper covers and contained about 400 pages. It was classified "For Official Use Only" and contained technical instructions on the characteristics of heavy tanks and SP guns and their motors. It also contained instructions on the proper lubrication of weapons and motors.

e. Interior Service Regulations (Regulamin Służby Wewnętrznej)<sup>6</sup>

Bound with light red, hard paper covers. The number of pages was unknown to source. It was classified "For Official Use Only" and could be purchased at any military store. It contained regulations governing the behaviour of military personnel during their period of active duty and instructions on the rendition of salutes, various military formations, and the performance of guard duties.

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f. Garrison Service Regulations (Regulamin Sluzby Garnizonowej)<sup>6</sup>

Bound with light red, hard paper covers. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] It was classified "For Official Use Only" and 25X1  
could be purchased at any military store. It contained instructions  
on the performance of duty when assigned to garrisons.

g. Disciplinary Regulations (Regulamin Dyscyplinarny)<sup>6</sup>

Bound with light red, hard paper covers and estimated at 60 pages.  
It covered regulations on the punishments which could be given for  
various types of offenses. It was classified "For Official Use  
Only".

## h. Tank Firing Manual (Podrecznik Strzelania z Czołga)

Bound with dark colored, hard paper covers. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] It was classified as "Secret" or For Offi- 25X1  
cial Use Only" and contained instructions on methods of firing tank  
weapons.

## i. Coding Table

[redacted] rose colored and containing two or three 25X1  
hard-paper inserts on which were printed a series of letters and  
numbers arranged in a square pattern. It was classified as "Very  
Secret" or "Secret". It was issued to the candidates during a  
lecture and returned to the instructor at the end of the lecture.  
The table was primarily used as a guide for coding or decoding one  
word messages. Candidates' notebooks used during the instruction  
period on codes were also classified as "Secret" and were retained by  
the instructor upon the completion of each lecture.

Training Aids Used

25X1

36. [redacted] instructors frequently utilized charts in lecturing 25X1  
on small arms, machine guns, breech mechanisms, tank motors, and the  
organizational structure of Polish Army units such as the company, bat-  
talion, regiment, and division, and their various staff sections. [redacted]  
[redacted] no Russian terminology being used in the case of the training 25X1  
aids. Charts showing the alleged organizational structure of an Amer-  
ican tank unit were shown to the candidates. Sand and relief tables  
were utilized in explaining tank tactics such as a defense, attack, am-  
bush, and column movements through open terrain and in wooded areas.  
Instructors used cut-away models of grenades [redacted] various types of 25X1  
ammunition, the Shlem-1 gas mask and cannister, and tank motors.

## a. Radios

During lectures on operation of radio equipment, the candidates  
operated such radio equipment as the RBM-1, 9-RS, 10 RK and the  
10 RK 26 plus the intercommunication systems installed in the tanks.<sup>7</sup>

## b. Flame-throwers and Chemical Equipment

- (1) Several types of rubber, rubberized and impregnated overalls,  
rubber boots, impregnated aprons, a Shlem-1 gas mask, and a  
horse-type gas mask were on display in one classroom.

- (2) [redacted] a portable type flame thrower 25X1  
[redacted] the instructor 25X1

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referred to the flame thrower as a "ROK".<sup>8</sup> At one demonstration [redacted] about seven bursts were fired with the flame thrower with the flame traveling about 25 yards. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] it consisted of a rubber hose and one small tank, which was worn by the demonstrator on his back. [redacted] 25X1

#### c. Engineer Equipment

During lectures on engineer subjects, various small-scale models of bridges, pontoons, and assault boats were shown to the candidates. In addition, the lecturer demonstrated two-man pneumatic rubber boats which were inflated with a foot pump. [redacted] 25X1

25X1

#### d. Training Films

Several training films were shown on political subjects and on the employment of tanks on various types of terrain with respect to their maneuverability. These training films were produced in the USSR at some period after WW II. Some of them had either Russian or Polish sound tracks. The remaining films were without sound.

#### Subjects of Instruction

37. OCS courses were somewhat specialized in that the first platoon of each company primarily studied heavy tanks; the second platoon primarily studied medium tanks; the third platoon primarily studied SP guns of 122-mm caliber; and the fourth platoon primarily studied SP guns of 85-mm caliber. However, all platoons were given a familiarization type of training on the operation and maintenance of all tanks and SP guns.<sup>9</sup>

38. [redacted] OCS subjects taught: 25X1  
25X1

#### a. Political Indoctrination

Several political lectures were given each week. They included discussions on the advantages of agricultural cooperatives; the Six-Year Plan and its progress; the reconstruction of heavy industries in Poland, specifically near Czestochowa (N 50-48, E 19-07) and Krakow; progress on the reconstruction of the Warsaw subway system; current international events such as the Korean conflict; the friendship of and assistance from the USSR, which was stressed as the strongest power in the world; conditions in the Polish Army today as compared to conditions that existed prior to WW II; and current news of various Polish youth associations and the Polish United Worker's Party (PZPR).

#### b. Infantry and Tank Tactics

- (1) Theoretical and practical instruction on infantry and tank small-unit tactics was given several hours daily. Offensive and defensive infantry tactics on the platoon-level were largely practiced by the candidates. The candidates learned cover and concealment, advancing by leaps and bounds, moving forward, withdrawal, and maintaining an orderly front line. Occasionally practical instruction in company-level infantry tactics was given. In such cases, platoons simulated companies during field training.

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- (2) Tactical tank training included the tank platoon in defense, offense, and in ambush; and deployment of tanks in villages and in open or wooded areas. Tank tactics were usually taught on the platoon level; however, platoons occasionally simulated companies or a battalion during tactical tank instruction. During such training, three tanks only were utilized each representing a company or battalion. Other platoons or companies participating in the training rode on vehicles or motorcycles which represented tanks.
- (3) Additional tank training was given on the employment of tanks at the platoon level in support of infantry troops in offensive and defensive situations. [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] 25X1
- (4) [REDACTED] OCS lecturers told the candidates that the 76-mm SP gun was no longer being produced in the USSR. Those that were available at the OCS were primarily utilized for instruction purposes in order to conserve the more modern types of tanks and SP guns such as the 85-mm, 122-mm, and 152-mm. 25X1

## c. Army Organization 25X1

- (1) Candidates were instructed that all Polish Army units were basically composed of three subunits: three companies composed a battalion; three battalions composed a regiment; and three regiments composed a division. An artillery unit was usually either organic or attached to battalion or higher units. [REDACTED] regimental, division, and corps artillery groups were normally at the disposal of the senior commander of combat troops in any given area of combat, and that such artillery groups could be assigned to any combat unit upon order from the senior commander in the area or sector of combat. 25X1
- (2) Lecturers spoke of independent reconnaissance battalions or regiments and stated that such units were normally attached to a division and/or army. These independent reconnaissance units were supposed to be capable of engaging the enemy in combat for an indefinite period of time.
- (3) Candidates also received theoretical instruction on frontages and depths of combat units in defense and offense, [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] 25X1
- (4) One instructor stated that the Polish Armed Forces consisted of land, air and sea units, and that the combat branches of the Polish Army were infantry, artillery, tank, signal engineer, and special infantry units; the latter supposedly consisted of mountain and sea combat units. [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] 25X1
- (5) The OCS lecturers told the candidates that Polish reconnaissance battalions and mechanized infantry regiments were supposed to be equipped with an unknown number of T34/85 medium tanks. Independent medium tank battalions were supposed to be normally equipped with T34/85 medium tanks and SP guns of 100 and 122-mm caliber. Infantry regiments were supposed to be equipped with an unknown number of T34/76 medium tanks.

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- (6) [ ] several lectures were given on the organizational structure of American combat units, particularly on American tank battalions equipped with M-26 tanks; the fire power of American tanks; American methods of employing tanks in defense and offense; and the duties of tank crews. [ ] one instructor stated that an American tank company having M-26 tanks was basically composed of three platoons with each platoon having four to six sections. Some verbal instruction [ ] was given on the frontage and depth of these tanks in deployment. [ ]

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## d. Marksmanship - Heavy Weapons and Machine Guns

- (1) Theoretical and practical gunnery instruction was given primarily on the 122-mm gun mounted in the heavy tank. The candidates were given more sketchy familiarization instruction on the 85-mm and 152-mm guns. Lectures included the gun's characteristics and nomenclature; technical data on its operation; its fire power, ranges, and armor penetration; and the method of using the Tsh-15 and TSh-17 gun sights.<sup>15</sup>
- (2) [ ] the 122-mm gun [ ] Firing was from the halt, at bunker-shaped wooden targets located about one kilometer from the firing position. Simulated tank fire exercises were held frequently; these were from prepared defensive positions and during short halts.
- (3) OCS candidates also received thorough familiarization training on the machine guns installed in the JS-2 heavy tank. [ ] practiced firing this tank's machine guns, from the halt position at silhouette targets located 100 m away. Close-range machine gun firing was also conducted at night at targets such as a barn, house, or human silhouette. These targets were illuminated with reflectors, the electricity being provided by portable generators located about 50 m from the target. A telegraph-key type of switch was used to light up the target intermittently. In order that the gunner could trace his firing at night, four rounds of tracer ammunition were spaced with only one round of regular ammunition in the machine gun ammunition belts.

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## e. Small Arms Instruction

Practical and theoretical instruction was given on the Polish KBK carbine, and PPS, 7.62 mm SMG. [ ] Each candidate fired eight rounds of familiarization slow fire with the PPS SMG, from the prone position at silhouette targets placed at ranges of 200 and 300 m. [ ]

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## f. Terrain Analysis and Map Reading

- (1) Practical and theoretical instruction was given on the use of the Adrianov compass; orientation in the field with compass, sun, and watch; the use of geographical and arbitrary grid coordinates and the contour lines; marching on a magnetic azimuth; and intersection and resection problems.

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- (2) [redacted] Soviet maps printed in 1944, 1946, and 1950, 25X1 only some of which were translated into Polish, were used during map reading exercises. [redacted] the scales on these maps as 1:25,000 (primarily used in map problems), 1:50,000; 1:100,000; 1:200,000; and 1:500,000. The platoon leader obtained the maps from the regimental operations officer and issued them to the candidates. [redacted] 25X1
- (3) [redacted] during map reading exercises, each grid square was subdivided into four smaller grid squares lettered A, B, C and D. Occasionally each subdivided grid square was again subdivided into four smaller squares. 25X1
- (4) In reporting a location on the map, the coordinates were read by moving upward and then to the right. Arbitrary grid coordinates were used jointly with the alphabetical letter to locate or designate an objective on the map. Terrain profiles were also made from maps.
- (5) On the situation maps, friendly forces were denoted in red and enemy forces in blue.

#### g. Technical Training

Theoretical and practical instruction included the technical characteristics, nomenclature and operation of the JS-2, 122-mm, heavy tank (primary subject), the T34/85 medium tank, and the 85-mm, and 152-mm SP guns.11

#### h. Signal Equipment and its Operation

Theoretical and practical instruction was given on the operation of radio set types RBM-1, 9-RS, 10-RM, 10-RK and 10-RK-26, plus the intercommunication system of tanks.7 Instruction was also given on the method of making entries in a simple type of radio journal and the use of call signs.

#### i. Drill

This consisted of close-order drill on squad, platoon and company levels. Extended-order drill of the infantry type was taught at the company level. Battalion formations were held frequently during the week for the publication of orders.

#### j. Practical Driving Instruction

- (1) [redacted] a minimum of 10 hours driving 25X1 instruction with the T34/85 medium tank and an equal number of hours with the JS-2 heavy tank and 122-mm SP gun. Candidates were also given a familiarization type of training in driving the GAZ-51 Soviet vehicle and motorcycles.
- (2) Tank driving was conducted on all types of roads, in villages, open areas, across small streams and bridges and in wooded areas.

#### k. Engineer Training

Theoretical and practical instruction included the use of camouflage for individual and tank concealment and the construction of tank traps and obstacles such as road barricades, antitank ditches, side-hill cuts and mine fields. Theoretical instruction was given on the laying of wooden, metal, and cardboard antitank mines, the use of a mine spacing cord, and preparation of mine field sketches. However, source could not recall any details on this subject.

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Candidates also received practical training on the construction of trenches, individual fox holes, and machine gun emplacements as well as on methods of crossing small streams and bridges.

# 1. Chemical Training

- (1) Except for gas chamber drills, all chemical instruction was conducted in classrooms. The chemical course included the characteristics and method of donning the Shlem-1 gas mask and familiarization with the effects of blister, choking, and poison gases. The lecturers told the candidates that special chemical platoons were assigned the responsibility of decontaminating contaminated equipment and areas. [redacted] gases as mustard, Adamsite, Lewisite, phosgene, diphosgene, and chloropicrin. [redacted] a gas called "Tabun" [redacted]
- (2) The OCS candidates were instructed on the recognition of gases by odor, color and concentration. [redacted] A limited amount of instruction was given on the use of protective garments such as rubberized suits, protective capes, gloves, and boots in contaminated areas. [redacted]
- (3) [redacted] candidates did not receive any type of instruction concerning bacteriological and/or radiological warfare.<sup>12</sup>
- (4) A gas chamber drill was held on one occasion. [redacted] the gas chamber [redacted] a one-story, concrete structure having two entrances. Each candidate donned his gas mask before entering the chamber. During the few minutes that they spent there, each candidate had to remove his mask, remove the cannister and test it for its effectiveness and then reassemble and don the gas mask before leaving the chamber. The purpose of the drill was to test the gas mask.
- (5) [redacted] a type of tear gas [redacted]

# m. Tank Maintenance

- (1) About four hours per week were designated for practical instruction on tank maintenance, primarily on the JS-2, 122-mm, heavy tank. Maintenance instruction, however, was also given on all other Soviet tanks and SP guns at the OCS.<sup>13</sup> The maintenance performed by the candidates included the complete lubrication of engines and chassis, adjustment of tank tracks, adjustment of springs, cleaning of filters and water cooling systems, and the general disassembly and assembly of various tank parts.
- (2) Technical inspection No 1 (Polish terminology), usually performed after 250 hours of tank operation, was included in general maintenance. In addition to the above points, it covered lubricating the engine and appropriate tank parts, flushing the water cooling system, cleaning the air and oil filters, and changing the engine oil. A visual inspection was made of all connections and movable parts on the tank. Technical inspection

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No 2 included the general maintenance performed under technical inspection No 1 plus an engine tune-up and an inspection of the tank's armament.

- (3) [redacted] each tank battalion had a tank maintenance crew which was utilized to repair tanks, provided that the tank crew could not perform the appropriate maintenance and repair. 25X1
- (4) Candidates were also told that major maintenance and repair of tanks and SP guns was performed by tank repair units at division or military district levels.

n. Russian Language

OCS candidates were required to have a basic knowledge of the Russian language. Approximately 40 hours were devoted to the language course. It was taught by a civilian male instructor and a female instructor (names unknown) from Poznan. Some texts were available to the candidates. [redacted]

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o. Transportation

Practical and theoretical instruction was given on loading of tanks and SP guns on flat cars, methods of securing tanks to the flat cars, and methods of unloading tanks from flat cars through the use of ramps. Some theoretical instruction was given on shipment of tanks on vessels and on appropriate types of craft for crossing rivers and streams. [redacted] one officer lecturer stated that in time of war, medium tanks could be safely driven off flat cars in high gear and full speed if needed without the use of any ramps, provided that the train was moving very slowly. 25X1

p. Hygiene

Lectures included care and treatment of feet during training and in combat; first aid and the use of the individual first aid kit; digging of latrines, which were to be daily disinfected by the unit's aidmen; boiling of all water prior to drinking; and the testing of water supplies by medical personnel. The lecturers stated that fruits and other edibles in enemy territory were not to be eaten unless they had been inspected by a medical officer.

Alerts

39. [redacted] practice alerts [redacted] were given at dawn. [redacted] the candidates assembled on the training field with full equipment, gas masks, and individual weapons. They stood-by for about two hours and were subsequently dismissed. 25X1  
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Field Training at the Biedrusko (N 52-33, E 16-57) Training Area<sup>14</sup>

40. OCS candidates were sent to the Biedrusko training area for about two weeks on three occasions during 1952 as part of their regular field training. [redacted] their training was conducted on company level. The candidates were given rotating assignments as unit commanders, platoon leaders, and tank commanders for a period of several hours or one day. Their training included marksmanship, tank offensive and defensive tactics, tank reconnaissance patrols, the tank platoon 25X1

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in ambush, tank combat in villages, column movements, and combat patrols. Each candidate, when selected as commander, prepared his own overlays, issued preparation orders to his crews, and issued combat orders during the training exercises.

41. [ ] during training only one "exploitation" tank was employed. The remaining tanks assigned to each company were parked at the tank park and were never used in any type of training. The crews of these parked tanks rode on trucks and observed the one tank being used for training. Frequently, vehicles were used to simulate tanks. [ ] this training was given at Biedrusko because the area was very large and had desirable terrain characteristics for good tank training. 25X1

[ ] Evaluation of OCS Training 25X1

42. [ ] the OCS cadre officers' lectures were very good and that they were well-qualified instructors. [ ] the instructors prepared their own lesson plans based on a training schedule prepared by the OCS Hq. These lesson plans were subsequently reviewed and approved by Soviet officer advisors at the OCS. 25X1 25X1 25X1
43. [ ] the candidates received very good instruction on tanks, SP guns, tactics, and the use of radio equipment. Instruction on other subjects was considered to be fair. However, all candidates felt qualified to perform any duty assignment in armored units upon completion of the course. 25X1

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6. [ ] Comment: [ ] a possibility that this Polish Army manual has been derived from its Soviet equivalent. 25X1 25X1 25X1

7. [ ] 25X1
8. [ ] Comment: [ ] a portable flamethrower, ROKS-3 [ ] being very similar to the model demonstrated at the OCS. 25X1 25X1 25X1

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